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-2.	Planning	Area/Site	Number:	35/22	3.	M-NCPPC	Atlas	Reference:		
1 %						•			G-12	

, Address: 6532 75th Street, Cabin John

. 5. Classification Summary

Category building	Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC
Ownership Private	Title and Date: Inventory of Historical
Public Acquisition NA	Sites - 1976
Status occupied	
Accessible no	Federal State X County X Local
Present use private residence	

6. Date: 1923

7. Original Owner: Harry and Olive Humphrey

8. Apparent Condition

					•
a.	excellent	_b.	<u>unaltered</u>	_c ,	original site

9. Description: This five bay by two bay, one and a half story house was constructed of rammed earth, eighteen inches deep, during the 1920s. The exterior walls are painted beige. There is a flagstone patio on the west (front) elevation and a two story porch on the east elevation. There are six-over-six double-hung windows flanked by reddish brown wooden louvered shutters. There are three dormer windows on the east and west elevations. The house has a gambrel roof with flat clay tile covering which weighs thirteen tons.

10. Significance: This house is significant for its construction materials, as a representative of settlement in the community of Cabin John, and for its association with a national political leader.

Cabin John was subdivided in 1914, and in 1919 Olive and Harry Humphrey purchased over 2 acres of land. Originally planning to build a log house, they decided to build an earthen one, and Mrs. Humphrey, who had drawn blue-prints for apartment houses, planned it and supervised construction. Some of the work was done by the Humphrey family.

Dr. Humphrey was Chief Plant Pathologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The house was the pilot model for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Bulletin No. 1500 (1926). According to a book on rammed earth houses, the owner "built the first modern house of earth ... "

In 1935 Harry Humphrey sent a bus ticket to his nephew, Hubert Humphrey, a small town pharmacist in Huron, South Dakota. Hubert vistied the Capitol, witnessed Senate debates and begain discussing politics with his uncle in the earthen house.

The next owner, Dr. George Weil, was also well known. An associate of Enrico Fermi, he participated in the first sustained nuclear chain reaction in 1942 at the University of Chicago.

Candy Reed 1... Researcher and date researched: Clarice F. Hens - 10/78 Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 14. Designation 13. Date Compiled: Approval___

15. Acreage: 46,227 sq. ft.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

STATUS X_OCCUPIED _UNOCCUPIED _WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE _YES: RESTRICTED _YES: UNRESTRICTED X_NO	CONGRESSIONAL DIS 8 COUNTOntgome: PRE AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMEN GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY Telephone #:	SENT USE MUSEUMPARK X_PRIVATE RESIDENC
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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

X_EXCELLENT
__GOOD

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

X_UNALTERED __ALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This rammed earth house was built in the 1920s in the Dutch Colonial style. It has poured concrete foundations, is one and a half stories high, and five bays across by two bays deep. The walls are approximately eighteen inches deep and are painted beige. During construction, sand finishing plaster was added to the exterior, and painted with a calcimine tallow paint.

The west (front) porch has flagstone flooring and is defined by a low brick wall topped by slate or flagstone slabs. Stone steps once curved from the first floor porch to the ground on the south side of the house. These have been removed, as well as a stand of hemlock trees, planted by a Humphrey son, Robert. There is a two story porch on the east elevation. This is screened-in at the second story and is open at the ground level. It is supported by six stone posts. A stairway ascending from west to east has access to the screened-in porch.

The gambrel roof has a flat clay tile covering which weighs thirteen tons. There is a very heavy roof truss system to support this covering. There are six over six double hung windows throughout the house; these are flanked by reddish brown wooden louvered shutters. At the north and south gambrel ends there are two quarter round windows. There are three dormer windows on the east and west elevations. These have gable roofs. There are two chimneys: on the south elevation there is an exterior en chimney of fieldstone; on the north elevation there is an interior end chimney of brick.

The west (front) door opens into a hall. South of the hall is the living room which runs the full east-west width of the house. The single run open string stairway ascends, east to west, along the north interior wall. North of the hall is a study. East of the hall and study is the kitchen. The screened-in, two-story porch runs the full north-south length of the house.

Floors throughout the house are narrow wooden boards. Wide plank, white oak floors were laid in the living room, hall and study, but have subsequently been stained walnut. The eighteen-inch thick walls replaced the need for insulation and air conditioning. The deep window insets on the interior served the Humphreys for holding various items such as acquariums and ferns. The walls are plaster over lath; in some cases rooms have been wall-papered. At the second story the rammed earth walls end, and the beginning of frame walls is visible at the gambrel ends. There are wooden paneled and louvered doors throughout the house. There is a simple horizontal wooden plank mantle for the south fireplace. A floor to ceiling cupboard has been built-in to the south interior wall in the kitchen. Olive used a wood stove in the winter and an electric one during the summer. Electricity and hot water heat were part of the design from the beginning. The upper half has single pane glass sliding doors.

A garage was included in the original plan, with a pit to enable the Humphrey sons to work on their cars. However, a subsequent owner did not replace broken tiles on the garage roof, and this part of the house ha eroded away.

The house is built into a hillside. Cabin John Park is to the north and east and the house is built at the end of the street. The house is surrounded by trees.

PERIOD	Α	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X.ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
X_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION	₹	Famous people

SPECIFIC DATES

1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Olive & Harry Humphrey

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is significant for its construction materials, its association with a political personage, and as a representative of settlement in the suburban community of Cabin John.

In July 1914, the American Land Company subdivided 155.9 acres bounded by Cabin John Branch, Conduit Road, and Seven Locks Road into large sections which were given names descriptive of their locations (e.g., Oakmont). The subdivision was located on land which was used by Union troops guarding the C&O Canal and Washington, D.C.'s water system. Purchasers of land in "Oakmont" were restrained from erecting factories or business enterprises, selling or dispensing intoxicating liquors, and keeping animals close to the roadways, and if they found any of "John of the Cabin's" treasure or articles of value, they were to return half of it to the seller.

Olive and Harry Humphrey purchased over 2 acres of land here in 1919.3 They originally planned to build a log house, but used the wood for firewood instead. Dr. Humphrey, Chief Plant Pathologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and his wife, who had drawn blueprints for apartment houses, decided to build an earthen house. Mrs. Humphrey planned the house, and supervised construction with the help of a carpenter, a Mr. Baker. Construction costs were \$30,000, and the house took a year to complete; the family moved in around Christmas, 1923. Some of the labor was furnished by the Humphreys and their two oldest sons, Llewellyn and Robert.

The method of construction was as follows: Soil was dug out for the basement, and screened through half-inch mesh wire. Samples were prepared on the site, and tested using the following technique: large peanut butter glasses were filled with dirt, compacted, and placed in the warming oven of Olive's wood kitchen stove. When thoroughly dry, they were slipped from the glass, and taken to the Bureau of Standards for further testing. The specimens were found to stand 150 pounds of pressure per square inch, which was computed to be eleven tons per square foot.

At the site, concrete footings were built, to prevent moisture from leaching upward. Mrs. Humphrey designed moulds with an inside dimension of eighteen inches. The earth was rammed in, each five inches compressed to two. Floor joists, nailing blocks for pictures, door and window openings, electric conduits, etc., all had to be included before the earth dried. Olive finished off her earthen house with an eighteen-ton roof Spanish-red tiles.

For chimney stone, the family built a road to Cabin John Creek, and hauled up rocks from the stream bottom. The road was later used for CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Rammed-Earth House

access to their garden, located by the creek. A spring near the creek provided the family with water, using an hydraulic dam to pump the water into a 1,000-gallon tank in the attic. In 1932 the spring dried up, and a well and pump house were installed.

The house was the pilot model for the United States Department of Agriculture's Farmers Bulletin No. 1500 (1926). According to one source, the owner "built the first modern house of earth..."

In 1935 Harry Humphrey sent a bus ticket to his nephew, Hubert Humphrey, a small town pharmacist in Huron, South Dakota. Hubert visited the Capitol, and witnessed Senate debates. He began discussing politics with his uncle in the earthen house. Dr. Harry Humphrey encouraged his nephew to complete his university studies, and to enter politics. Hubert wrote to his fiance from his room under the tile roof, "..if you and I just apply ourselves and ...work for bigger things, we can live here in Washington...I set my aim at Congress..."

In addition to the Humphrey family, the next owner was also well known. Dr. George Weil bought the property in 1951. Weil, an associate of Enrico Fermi, participated in the first sustained nuclear chain reaction in 1942 at the University of Chicago.

The house was sold to current owners Mr. and Mrs. James Wesner in 1977.

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Plat Book 2, Plat 178, Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., July 1, 1914.
- 2. Armstrong, Edith Martin, A Brief History of Cabin John Park (Montgomery County Historical Society, 1947).
- 3. Land Records, Op. Cit., 282/453.
- 4. Merrill, Anthony F., The Rammed Earth House (Harper and Brothers, New York, 1947).
- 5. Fraden, Morris, "Humphrey's Political Career was Born in Cabin John", Montgomery Journal, December 16, 1977.
- 6. Land Record, Op. Cit., 1534/402.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED SHEET B

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 46,227 square feet

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 92, Section 1, "Cabin John Park", as per Plat Book 2, plat 178; Excepting land conveyed to M-NCPPC (Liber 632, folio 154, Montgomery County Land Records)

	STATE	NONE	COUNTY		
	STATE	<u> </u>	COUNTY		
11	FORM P	REPARED BY			· .
	NAME / TITLE	Clarice F. Hens		C andy Ree d Architectural	Description
	ORGANIZATION	*		DATE	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87. Stronghold

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

DATE

October 1978

TELEPHONE

926-4510

STATE

Dickerson

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical ast

The Sma. Page 21 State Circle Annapol: , Maryla. 1 21401

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
Box 87, Stronghold
Dickerson, Md. 20753
(301) 926-4510

(30-267-1438

Rammed-Earth House

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Armstrong, Edith Martin, A Brief History of Cabin John Park (Montgomery County Historical Society, 1947).
- Coffin, Edward Warren & Humphrey, Harry B., Lower Cost Buildings: Handbook on Building Walls with Rammed Earth (The Publicity Corporation, Washington, D.C., 1924).
- Fraden, Morris, "Humphrey's Political Career was Born in Cabin John", Montgomery Journal, December 16, 1977.
- Merrill, Anthony F., The Rammed Earth House (Harper & Brothers, New York, 1947).
- Whittemore, Herbert L., et al, "Structural, Heat-Transfer, and Water-Permeability Properties of Five Earthwall Constructions" (National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C., 1941) (obtainable from NTIS, Dept. of Commerce, as COM-73-10970).
- Interview: David Humphrey, son of Olive and Harry Humphrey, July 1978.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

COMMON:					
	Oakmont				
AND/OR HISTORIC:			·		
	Rammed Eart	h House			
LOCATION			<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
STREET AND NUMBER:	2711 Observe			•	
CITY OR TOWN:	75th Street				
CITTOR TOWN.	Cabin John				
STATE	Cabin bonn		COUNTY:		
	Maryland		Mo	ntgomery	
CLASSIFICATION			-		***
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP	n na	STATUS	ACCESSIB
District Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisit	ion:	D Occupied	Yes:
Site Structure	Private	☐ In Pro	Cess	Unoccupied	Restricte
Object	☐ Both	□ Being	Considered	Preservation work	
				in progress	₩ No
PRESENT USE (Check One of	More as Appropriate)				
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The house is built of rammed earth covered with stucco in a colonial revival style. The five bay facade has a central entrance; the windows are 6/6 double hung sash. On one end is a large semi-external stone chimney. The gambrel roof has siding on the gable ends; the eaves are belled to form the porch roof. There are three A-roofed dormers on the facade. The roof is tiled.

PERIOD	(Check One or More as	Appropriate)			
	Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century		18th Century	20th Century
	15th Century	☐ 17th Century		19th Century	
	FIC DATE(S) (If Applicat				
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	Prehistoric	Engineering		Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
	Historic	Industry		losophy	
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	Architecture	☐ Landscape		Sculpture	
	☐ Art	Architecture		Social/Human-	
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Article 66D of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and to Chapter 24A and Chapter 33A of the Montgomery County Code, the Montgomery County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission hereby gives notice that it will hold a public hearing on the following:

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AMENDMENT TO

THE MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

at

10:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1983

AUDITORIUM, MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD 8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Maryland 20907

to take testimony on whether or not the following historic resources currently listed in the <u>Locational Atlas and Index of Historic</u>
Sites in Montgomery County should be included in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, and added to the area master plans for the areas in which they are located.

- Dickerson Station, Site #12/21-1 22235 Mt. Ephraim Road Dickerson, Maryland
- Bussard Farm, Site #22/7 18400 Muncaster Road Derwood, Maryland
- 3. Hayes Manor, Site #35/10 4101 Manor Road Chevy Chase, Maryland
- 4. Woodend, Site 35/12 8940 Jones Mill Road Chevy Chase, Maryland
- 5. Rammed-Earth House (Oakmont), Site #35/22 6532 75th Street Cabin John, Maryland

- 6. Reading House, Site #35/24
 44 Wellesley Circle
 Glen Echo, Maryland
- 7. Granger Estate, Site #35/17 7303 River Road Bethesda, Maryland

The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission has reviewed the architectural and historic significance of these resources according to the criteria listed in the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code, and nominated resources one through six listed above for placement on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. If placed on the Master Plan, the historic resources will be protected under the Historic Preservation Ordinance which provides certain controls regarding alteration, demolition and maintenance of the property.

The Historic Preservation Commission found resource seven listed above not to meet Ordinance criteria for placement and have recommended its removal from the Locational Atlas. If not included in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, any of the resources listed above may be removed from the Locational Atlas. If removed, the sites would no longer be subject to the provision of Chapter 24A-10, the Moratorium on Alteration or Demolition. All sites will remain on the Maryland Historical Trust's inventory.

Copies of the Preliminary Draft Amendment are available at The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20907. Additional research on these sites is available from the Park and Planning Commission at the same address and also the Park Historian's Office located in Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Rockville, Maryland.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow all interested persons to express their views concerning this amendment. Persons wishing to testify should call 565-7401. If you are unable to attend, write your concerns to the Montgomery County Planning Board at the above address and they will be made part of the Public Hearing record.

Thomas H. Counta JE.

Executive Director

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THC:MZR:nlw

M:35-22

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated January 28, 1983

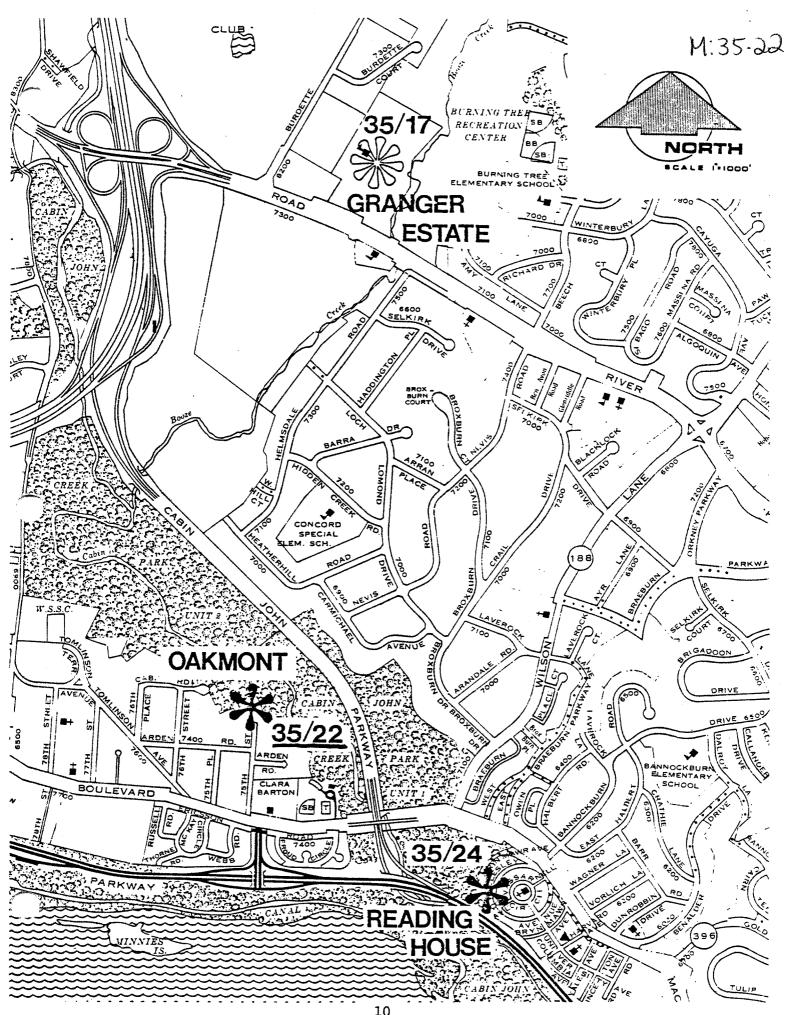
ACTION TAKEN

Notice of Public Hearing. . .several resources being considered for inclusion in the Master Plan

- 1. Dickerson Station. M: 12/21-1
- 2. Bussard Farm. M: 22/7

- 5. Rammed-Earth House (Oakmont) M: 35/22
- * 7. Granger Estate. M: 35/17

*The Historic PRESERVATION Commission found this resource not to meet Ordinance criteria for placement and have recommended its removal from the <u>Locational Atlas</u>.





MNAME \$ 35-22 OAKMONT/RAMMED-EARTH HOUSE

LOCATION 75TH STREET, CABIN JOHN, MD,

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PHOTO TAKEN 9/11/74 M. DWYER